

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation for All Projects Other  
Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Projects**

**A. Background**

**BLM Office:** Tillamook Resource Area **Lease/Serial/Case File No:** N/A

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2013-0007-CX    **Date:** 7/10/2013

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Alder Glen Platform Repair/Trail Upgrade

**Location of Proposed Action:** The platform and trail are located at BLM's Alder Glen Campground (T.3S., R.7W., Section 32), which is located along the Nestucca Access Road.

**Land Use Allocation(s):** Late Successional Reserve (LSR) and Riparian Reserve (RR)

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The current platform base was constructed of gabion. Over the years, the gabion has been damaged by debris moving down river during high water events. This has caused approximately one third of the structure to be undermined. This project will shore up the existing structure, replace base materials that have been lost, and grout the material in place to stabilize the structure. In order to perform the work a coffer dam would be constructed around the platform during low water to keep the area dry during repairs.

The trail leading to the platform was originally constructed of asphalt and over time has degraded, crumbled and washed away during high water events. The trail grade is also too steep to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Upgrades to the trail will include reducing the grade and widening of the surface tread to accommodate wheelchairs, thus meeting current ADA standards. The project will consist of removing the original asphalt trail and replacing the trail surface with concrete to minimize effects to water quality. A minor trail readjustment will be necessary to bypass a large conifer tree. Trail grade will be adjusted by using varying depths of concrete instead of aggregate fill which will limit the potential of the fill material washing away during high water events and therefore prolonging the life of the trail.

All work within the Nestucca River stream channel will be done during the ODFW in-stream work window (July 1 through September 15). The asphalt will be removed from the BLM lands and disposed of in an approved location.

Prior to moving onto the project site for the first time or re-entering the project site after leaving, all heavy equipment used on the project would be power washed to reduce the possibility of spreading non-native invasive plant species. For purposes of this requirement the project site is defined as Alder Glen campground. Also, in order to minimize the risk of spreading invasive plant species, existing non-native invasive plant species would be removed from the work area prior to ground disturbing activities. The following project design features would be incorporated into the project to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act regarding Oregon Coast coho:

Design Features related to vehicle/equipment use and maintenance:

- For any vehicle or mechanized equipment to be operated within 150 ft. of any stream . . . inspect daily for fluid leaks before leaving the vehicle staging area. Repair any leaks and clean the

vehicle or equipment before resuming operation.

- Refuel mechanized equipment, store mechanized equipment overnight, and perform maintenance and repairs at least 150 ft. from streams.
- Refuel power equipment (or use absorbent pads for immobile equipment) at a location remote from water bodies (at least 150 ft. distant) to prevent direct delivery of contaminants into a water body.
- Do not enter wetted stream channels with mechanized equipment except where no practicable alternative exists.
- Develop and implement a spill containment plan that includes having a spill containment kit on-site and a previously identified containment location.

Design Features related to erosion control:

- Dispose of fill or waste material in stable, non-floodplain sites. Provide the erosion control necessary to minimize the likelihood of sediment delivery to water bodies.
- Implement soil-disturbing maintenance activities during dry conditions to the greatest extent practicable.
- Minimize soil disturbance and displacement, but where sediment risks warrant, prevent off-site soil movement through use of filter materials (such as straw bales or silt fencing) if vegetated areas between the project site and the river are not present.
- Exposed soils that may deliver sediment to streams shall be treated prior to fall rains with grass seed, slash, water bars or other appropriate methods that will minimize or eliminate sediment delivery.

Design Features related to trail maintenance:

- Minimize adverse effects of brushing (loss of shade, bank stability, etc.) when trails occur within the riparian area by leaving as much of the riparian area uncut as possible.
- Prevent and minimize erosion from trails by designing and maintaining proper drainage structures.

#### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, dated May 1995; *Nestucca Watershed Analysis*, dated October, 1994; *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standard and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April, 1994 (p. C-19); *Record of Decision Amending Resource Management Plans for Seven Bureau of Land Management Districts and Land and Resource Management Plans Nineteen National Forests Within the Range of the*

*Northern Spotted Owl, Decision to Clarify Provisions Relating to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, March 2004; Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January, 2001; ESA (Endangered Species Act of 1972, as amended); Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996, as amended; and BLM Manual 6840 Special Status Species Policy.*

The proposed action is in conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following decision(s):

- “Improve viewing opportunities for watchable wildlife at...the Nestucca River...” (1995 RMP p. 41).
- “Continue to operate and maintain 12 developed recreation sites and 8 developed trails. These sites and trails are: [...Alder Glen ...]” (1995 RMP p. 43).

### **C. Compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act:**

Oregon Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*; coho) are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Critical Habitat for coho includes the Nestucca River adjacent to the project area. Coho and Oregon Coast Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*; Chinook) are also covered under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and its provisions for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Critical Habitat and EFH can be referred to collectively as Listed Fish Habitat (LFH).

Endangered Species Act and MSA coverage for this project is provided by the *Endangered Species Act Programmatic Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations for the Programmatic Activities of USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and Coquille Indian Tribe in Western Oregon. BLM 2010/02700*. Under the BO, the project is considered to be Likely to Adversely Affect coho and LFH because it will occur within 150 ft. of LFH. The BO requires incorporation of the Project Design Criteria (PDC) to prevent significant effects to LFH – (See Project Design Features in the Proposed Action section above).

There would be no effect to ESA listed terrestrial wildlife species therefore consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not necessary.

### **D. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.7, which allows for issuance for routine and continuing government business, including maintenance, renovation, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as shown on the following table:

<b>Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review</b>		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<p><b>2.1/</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?  <b>Rationale:</b> All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.</p>		No
<p><b>2.2/</b> Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as: historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?  <b>Rationale:</b> The proposed activity is within the Nestucca River ACEC and along the shores of the Nestucca River which has been determined as suitable for a recreational river listing as a Wild and Scenic River. The Nestucca River is also a State scenic waterway. The proposed project will enhance recreational opportunity for fishing and wheelchair access to the waterway and is therefore consistent with the designation as a recreational river. There are no cultural or historic resources within the project area.</p>		No
<p><b>2.3/</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?  <b>Rationale:</b> Based on experience, this type of activity has predictable environmental effects, none of which may be considered highly controversial, and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses.</p>		No
<p><b>2.4/</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?  <b>Rationale:</b> Experience with this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>		No
<p><b>2.5/</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?  <b>Rationale:</b> Similar actions have taken place throughout the district with no evidence suggesting that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action.</p>		No
<p><b>2.6/</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?  <b>Rationale:</b> The BLM has conducted similar types of repair and maintenance activity in the past with no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects.</p>		No
<p><b>2.7/</b> Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office?  <b>Rationale:</b> No listed or eligible properties are within the project area.</p>		No
<p><b>2.8/</b> Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?</p>		No

<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <p><b>Fisheries:</b> Oregon Coast coho salmon (coho) are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act and are present in the Nestucca River in the vicinity of the project site. Designated Critical Habitat for coho includes the reach at the project site. Project design features (including working within the ODFW in-stream work window, isolating the site with a cofferdam and replacing asphalt with concrete) as well as summer (low) river flows will minimize or negate any potential effects to coho or coho habitat. No significant effects to coho or coho habitat are anticipated.</p> <p><b>Wildlife:</b> No T&amp;E wildlife species known sites will be disturbed by the project based on the nature of habitats within the area, the campgrounds' proximity to the Nestucca Road in a high ambient noise corridor and lack of known sites within or near the project areas. The project will have no effect upon any T&amp;E wildlife species or their designated Critical Habitat(s).</p> <p><b>Botany:</b> There are no known sites of any Threatened or Endangered or candidate botanical or fungal species within the proposed project area (paved roadway) nor is there any habitat present within the project area for any listed species.</p>	
<p><b>2.9/</b> Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Repair of the viewing platform and upgrades to the existing trail will follow all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.</p>	No
<p><b>2.10/</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.</p>	No
<p><b>2.11/</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Actions will not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites.</p>	No
<p><b>2.12/</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> There are known populations of invasive non-native plant species in and adjacent to the Alder Glen project area (e.g. <i>Geranium lucidum</i> (shining geranium), <i>Geranium robertianum</i> (Herb Robert Geranium), <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> (Reed Canarygrass). This project will disturb soil which creates an opportunity for the spread of invasive non-native plants. Efforts to mitigate the spread of weed species are being addressed by washing any equipment prior to bringing it onto the project site and removing existing populations of geraniums in the campground prior to project implementation. Reed Canarygrass is commonly found along the entire Nestucca river corridor as a stream bank invader, especially on new sediment deposits or freshly disturbed areas. There is no reasonable pre-treatment effort that would mitigate the spread of this grass species. Campgrounds are considered high priority sites for weed monitoring and management considering the high use by humans. Additional post project monitoring will be done to assure ground disturbing activities caused by the project does not allow for the establishment of new population of these undesirable invasive non-native plant species. Based on mitigation factors and projected monitoring overall impacts expected from this proposed project would be minimal.</p>	No

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 (see Table 1, above) apply.

I considered and reviewed the effects of the following additional elements of the environment required by management direction. Table 2 shows the effects of the proposed action on these elements of the environment.

<b>Table 2: Additional Elements of the Environment</b>		
<b>Elements of the Environment</b>	<b>Status: Not Present, Not Affected, or Affected</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Energy (Executive Order 13212)	Not Affected	There are no known energy resources located in the project area. The proposed action will have no adverse effect on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.
Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Cons. /Mgt. Act)	Affected – But No Adverse Effect	The Nestucca River adjacent to the project area is Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for coho and Chinook. Disturbance in the stream- bed and bank is expected to be minimal, comparable to effects associated with the presence of the existing structure. No adverse effects to EFH are anticipated from the proposed action.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	Not Affected	Asphalt from the existing trail will be removed and disposed of at an approved facility off of BLM managed lands.
Special Status (except T/E) species/habitat	Fish - Affected Wildlife – Not Affected Botany – Not Affected	Oregon Coast steelhead (steelhead) is a BLM Oregon Sensitive Species and is present in the Nestucca River adjacent to the project area. A small potential for minor effects to steelhead or its habitat are anticipated but would not be expected to contribute to the need to list OC steelhead under the ESA.  Due to the nature and scope of the project as well as the current condition of the project areas, the project would not impact any other Special Status species or their habitat(s) including wildlife and plant Bureau Sensitive and/or Survey and Manage species.

The proposed action has only minor effects on some of the elements of the environment described above; therefore there is no potential for significant impacts. No additional mitigation measures are required.

**E. Signature:**

Specialist Review and Concurrence:

None required

Review Required	Review Not Required	Resource	Name	Initial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquatic/Fisheries	R. Clay Ramey	<i>RCR</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Botany	Kurt Heckerth	<i>KWH</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	Heather Ulrich	<i>HAU</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	Joel Churchill	<i>JJC</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fuels/Air Quality	Clint Gregory	<i>CJG</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soils	Chris Sween	<i>CRS</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEPA Compliance	Andy Pampush	<i>ATP</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation/Team Lead	Debra Drake	<i>DD</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife	Steve Bahe	<i>SAB</i>

Authorized Official:



Date:

7/11/13

Name: Karen Schank

Title: Tillamook Resource Area Field Manager

**Contact Person:** For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Recreation Planner, Tillamook Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141, 503-815-1134

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT, TILLAMOOK RESOURCE AREA

**Decision Record**

Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2013-0007-CX, I have determined that the proposed action, repair of existing handicap accessible viewing platform and upgrade of platform access trail involves no significant impacts to the human environment and requires no further environmental analysis.

It is my decision to implement the repair of existing handicap accessible viewing platform and upgrade of platform access trail, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-OR-S060-2013-0007-CX.

Implementation: This project will be implemented August, 2013 and will be in effect until August, 2016.

Authorized Official:



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Karen Schank  
Tillamook Resource Area Field Manager

Date:

